

Activity: Recreation Programs

Program Components	FY 2006 Actual	FY 2007 CR	FY 2008			Change From FY 2007 (+/-)
			Fixed Costs & Related Changes (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
Recreation Programs (\$000)	546	557	+17	0	574	+17
Total Recreation Programs Requirements (\$000)	546	557	+17	0	574	+17
<i>Total FTE Requirements</i>	4	4	4	0	4	0
Impact of the CR		[0]		[0]		

Mission Overview

Recreation Programs support the National Park Service mission by working with state and local government partners to “extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout the country and the world.” The Federal Lands to Parks Program (FLP) contributes to the following goals: 1) Natural and cultural resources are conserved through formal partnership programs; and 2) through partnerships with other Federal, State, and local agencies and nonprofit organizations, a nationwide system of parks, open space, rivers, and trails provide educational, recreational, and conservation benefits throughout the United States. These NPS goals in turn support the DOI goals to provide recreational opportunities for America, improve the quality of life for communities we serve, and safeguard property and assets. The FLP adds acres of park lands, and helps ensure continued public access to recreational opportunities. FLP also works toward compliance with 40 U.S.C. § 550(b and e) to ensure that properties are used as intended for public parks and recreation and natural and cultural resources are protected.

Activity Overview

Recreation Programs primarily covers the Federal Lands to Parks Program, which assists State and local governments in acquiring surplus Federal real property for public parks and recreation areas and helping to ensure continued stewardship of transferred properties. This program also provides assistance to local communities and non-profits in the transfer of historic lighthouses under the National Historic Lighthouse Preservation Act of 2000. The activity includes a range of planning, Federal coordination, technical assistance, and real estate transactions.

Justification of FY 2008 Program Changes

The FY 2008 budget request for Recreation Programs is \$574,000 and 4 FTE, with no program changes from the FY 2007 President's Budget.

Program Overview

The Federal Lands to Parks Program places a priority on helping communities obtain Federal properties which have been declared surplus (that is, no longer needed by the Federal Government) for public parks and recreation use. The FLP program helps local communities preserve lands by facilitating transfer of surplus Federal properties (military, U.S. General Services Administration, or other) to local and State governments. This ensures long-term conservation by enabling local and State governments to manage locally important resources. In partnership with State and local governments, the FLP program contributes to community revitalization by providing new and expanded State and community parks, increasing close-to-home recreation opportunities (recognized as important to increasing health and wellness), and protecting open space and important natural and cultural resources. In addition to benefiting communities, the FLP program helps the Federal government save money by reducing its unneeded inventory of Federal land and facilities.

The FLP program assists communities interested in acquiring surplus Federal land in filing their application, and acts as a broker between the applicant and the Federal disposing agency (typically the General Services Administration or the Department of Defense). The FLP program approves the community's application, recommends the property transfer, and prepares and conveys the deed (except for lighthouse properties), including any restrictions associated with the deed.



Charles County, Maryland, is planning a new 13.4 mile rail-trail on a former Naval Surface Warfare Center rail corridor received through the FLP in late FY 2006.

Because recreational use does not have priority in Federal property disposal, the NPS plays an important role in helping States and communities compete among other potential interests by communicating their needs and demonstrating the importance of ensuring long-term protection of, and public access, to resources. The FLP program is the only Federal program that aids State and local governments in acquiring surplus Federal land for dedicated public recreation instead of paying fair market value.

Once transferred, the land must be used for public park and recreation in perpetuity. The NPS, under the Federal Property and Administration Services Act of 1949, is responsible for ensuring continued public access and resource protection to over 1,160 previously transferred properties (121,000 acres). FLP carries out this requirement, to the extent funds permit, through site visits, follow-up contacts, community self-certification reports, technical assistance to communities, and deed and use

agreement revisions. FLP increasingly relies on recipient reporting and citizen/user oversight to identify major issues.

The NPS, through FLP, is a partner with the Department of Defense in the conversion of closed and realigned military bases under Base Realignment and Closure Acts (BRAC). FLP is providing assistance with the 2005 BRAC round, working with State and local partners and military services to identify new park and recreation opportunities. In previous rounds of BRAC from 1988-1995, FLP staff received 135 requests to assist on 86 of the 97 military bases subject to closure or realignment. The NPS deeded 82 BRAC properties, including 11,417 acres, from 54 closed military bases in these BRAC rounds for public parks and recreation use. An additional 4 BRAC properties, including 2,462 acres, are in process to deed, and 13 community requests (2,798 acres) have been recommended by the FLP and are awaiting military final approval for transfer.

In addition to the transfer of an increasing number of BRAC properties, the FLP program works with the GSA and State and local agencies regarding other available Federal (non-BRAC) property (approximately 50 percent of FLP land transfers). FLP staff also assists in implementing the National Historic Lighthouse Preservation Act of 2000 working with the GSA, the U.S. Coast Guard, NPS Cultural Resource staff, and local government and non-profit organization applicants, to review and recommend applications for historic lighthouses.

- ① Find the Federal Lands to Parks Program online at www.nps.gov/flp.

Use of Cost and Performance Information

FLP's priority is to assist states and local communities in acquiring real property from other Federal agencies for public parks and recreation. FLP provides technical assistance to communities, serves as an advocate on their behalf and acts as a real estate broker for land transactions. Over the past five years, FLP has deeded 12,337 acres protected for public parks and recreation. FLP has provided its services at an average cost of \$223 per acre transferred per year (i.e. total budget allocation/number of acres transferred). New property assistance and land transfer costs would be less if the cost of monitoring previously transferred properties were factored in.

FY 2008 Program Performance

In FY 2008, the Federal Lands to Parks Program plans to:

- Facilitate and complete approximately 18 land transfers from previous BRAC rounds, related properties, such as: Roosevelt Roads Naval Station, Puerto Rico, 3,600 acres; Mather AFB and Oakland Army Base, California CA; and other surplus Federal lands including Badger Army Ammunition Plant, Wisconsin, up to 5,200 acres; and Ohio River lock and dam sites, for public park and recreation areas.
- Continue to work with States, communities and DOD to finalize BRAC/park transfer decisions and resolve identified issues affecting transfer requests in process for public park and recreation interests for 2005-listed military base closures and realignments.
- Respond to major stewardship requests (e.g. third-party agreements, land exchanges, boundary adjustments, utility easements, rights-of-way, and use changes) received. Focus will be to resolve major compliance issues regarding the 1,176 transferred properties (122,600 acres, estimated). Routine monitoring will be minimal, with great reliance on recipient reporting.

This program participated in the 2006 External Program – Technical Assistance PART evaluation, which received a rating of Adequate (53 percent). In FY 2007 and 2008, FLP will work with the General Services Administration and other federal agencies to respond to recommendations in the June 2006 GAO's report to improve accountability of public benefit conveyance programs.

Program Performance Overview

End Outcome Goal End Outcome Measure / Intermediate or PART Measure / PART Efficiency or other Outcome Measure	T y p e	2004 Actual	2005 Actual	2006 Enacted	2006 Actual	2007 President's Budget	2007 Plan	2008 Plan	Change from 2007 Plan to 2008	Long-term Target 2012
End Outcome Goal 3.2 Recreation. Expand Seamless Recreation Opportunities with Partners										
End Outcome Measures										
Recreational opportunities: Number of non-NPS acres made available for recreation through financial support and technical assistance (SP, BUR IIIb1C)	C /F	886,714 total + 40,432 in FY 2004	962,237 total + 75,523 in FY 2005	976,900 total + 14,663 in FY 2006	1,026,929 + 64,692 in FY 2006	1,046,929 + 20,100 in FY 2007	1,064,929 + 38,000 in FY 2007	1,067,029 + 21,000 in FY 2008	+ 21,000 (+ 2%) (21,000 /1,046,929)	1,149,900
Actual/projected cost per acre (in dollars)			\$37.45	\$7.18	\$7.18	\$23.07	\$7.18	\$22.71		
Comments:		Added to DOI strategic plan starting in FY 2007. Baseline and targets based on existing NPS goal. Performance based on all contributing Programs. Because performance for this goal lags 2-4 years behind funding, unit costs are not meaningful.								
Contributing Programs:		National Recreation and Preservation Programs, Land Acquisition - State Assistance Grants								
Note: The 2007 plan is the performance level based upon a projection of 2007 likely enacted made during the first quarter of 2007. The 2008 plan and the 2012 long-term targets build on the 2007 plan. To the extent that Congress enacts a 2007 appropriation that is different from the 2007 projection, the 2008 plan and 2012 targets may require revision.										